

Highfields School

Highfields Sixth Form, Highfields School, Upper Lumsdale, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 5NA

Sixth Form Prospectus

for students starting Year 12 in 2020-21





Sixth Form Prospectus for the school year 2020-21

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Introduction

A-Levels are a new adventure, and we want you to love what you learn and how you learn it. The Sixth Form at Highfields is a friendly, energetic and supportive community where we want you to enjoy your time and get the rewards of studying at a high level. In five of the last six years, Highfields students have secured places at Oxford or Cambridge, and in seven of the last eight years we have been in the top 25% of schools in terms of student progress. Whilst they have been running, students have also gained well paid Degree and Higher Apprenticeships with Balfour Beatty, National Grid and Jaguar Land Rover.



If you love what you learn, beyond what A Levels demand, then you get great results. 84% of our Extended Project students achieved A* grades in 2019. These students almost invariably head for Russell Group universities or Oxbridge. This track record is the result of a tight knit group of students who create a positive, supportive and competitive atmosphere as they learn. It is also comes from a stable and passionate staff team where many of our subject specialists are also examiners. Beyond exam results, what is most important to us is that students enjoy themselves, broaden their horizons and go on to courses or careers they are happy with. We like to see the Sixth Form at Highfields as a close-knit community of students and staff. Those who have moved to join us have often commented on the friendly, supportive relationships that teachers have with students. We work hard to try to ensure that all students feel they are in a professional but mutually supportive atmosphere.

We have an energetic programme of events, trips and student-led groups, and are always keen to encourage initiatives that students would like to start. That is why, during assemblies, you are as likely to hear from other students as from teachers as to what is happening in the coming weeks. In 2018 students visited a homeless shelter and had a sleep out to raise money. We started an Ambassadors programme with local charity, Helen's Trust, and students regularly volunteer at Golding Grange day centre and at lunch clubs for the elderly, the list could go on. We value our links with the community and students arrange a Christmas Party at Denefields Court Sheltered Housing every year.

Getting a degree apprenticeship is a competitive business, so we support students with mock interviews and presentation practice, with the same care that we give to university applicants applying for most competitive courses. Sometimes students underestimate what they can achieve and where they can get to, so we'll have a quiet word where necessary, to make sure you reach the place which best fits your talents. Wherever your ambitions lie, we'll find ways to support you.

Most students go on to university (roughly 85% each year). Our Higher Education and Employment Programme provides various opportunities throughout the year for students and parents to explore the options open to them. We work closely with the Universities of Nottingham, Sheffield, Lancaster and Nottingham Trent to help students understand the breadth of choice available. This includes open day trips, an evening led by admissions tutors at school with the chance for parents and students to ask questions and a trip away to the Oxbridge Conference. Former students also return to give the most up-to-date and down-to-earth feedback on their courses and experiences. At the same time we help to mentor students who are looking for direct entry to employment, run a work experience programme, offer independent careers advice and provide resources to ensure they are able to sell themselves into the employment market. Every summer several students have taken up Nuffield Science and Headstart summer placements at universities, which have led to places on prestigious degree courses; and Oxbridge places over recent years have been gained in subjects including Maths, English, Natural Sciences, Politics, Philosophy, History, German and Computer Science.



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Our Induction Days in summer give students and tutors the chance to come together and enjoy some time for team building and an opportunity to think about Sixth Form studies before September. We ensure that external students are well looked after and have a good feel of the school before they start. Entering the Sixth Form is an important new phase in any student's career and we look forward to welcoming you.

Mr M Flett
Director of Sixth Form

Ultimately, hearing from our own students is often the best way of learning about the Sixth Form opportunities and atmosphere...



I came to Highfields Sixth Form from Tibshelf School and it has been a warm, welcoming place where it is easy to make friends. Within the first few weeks I'd volunteered to help with reading at All Saints Junior school, I was driven down there and introduced to teachers. I then kept up the project all year, it was great seeing children who struggled with reading progress.

I chose to do an Extended Project into Modern Surveillance Legislation, because I want to study Law at university. I received lots of help with decoding the legal jargon throughout the course of my project. At Highfields, I have enjoyed studying my subjects because the teachers are passionate about what they teach and so are all the students. This makes learning engaging and interesting. I've had lots of help with my application to Cambridge and I'd say to anyone thinking of Highfields that it's definitely worth a bus journey!

Connor



After attending my previous school for five years, moving to Highfields Sixth Form has been the most positive experience. I received such a warm welcome and have made some wonderful friends.

The teachers were very helpful and also arranged for a group of us to volunteer at Golding Grange, a local day care centre which has been a very rewarding experience. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here and would highly recommend it.

Amelia

This is a good school. Ofsted, May 2017
A good school with an outstanding Sixth Form. Ofsted, October 2012



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During my time at Highfields Sixth Form I have been able to get involved in some of the amazing opportunities they offer here such as volunteering at Golding Grange day care centre and becoming an ambassador for the local charity Helen's Trust, helping organise a number of fund raising events in school.



I have also been able to do an Extended Project on Biohybrid Robots with great support from staff. I have also been a member of the Student Parliament which was very rewarding. All of these opportunities have developed my confidence and this was really valuable when I gained a place on the Headstart course at Belfast Queens University in the Summer for Physical Sciences which really helped in my decision making to study Natural Sciences at University.

Isabel



Moving school was an entirely new experience for me, having been at my previous school for five years. Nevertheless, I set aside my nerves and came to Highfields. I haven't looked back since. From day one I felt at home in the Sixth Form; I get on well with my peers and teachers, and the excellent facilities such as the canteen and library, all contribute to a motivating and comfortable working environment.

I feel very lucky to have joined Highfields. The Sixth Form Social Evening, was a nice informal time in Matlock which helped me get to know students and teachers in a more relaxed setting.

Joe

My time in Highfields 6th Form, has been highly academic but simultaneously a lot of fun. Highfields staff have a true enthusiasm for their subject, while also being hardworking and, most importantly, friendly people.

In Year 12 I became the Chair of the Student Parliament, which was such a rewarding extra-curricular activity, watching my debating, persuasion and leadership skills have an impact in school. Highfields is a great place to learn and I would widely recommend it not just for its selfless staff but its friendly student community.



Fred



Sixth Form Prospectus for the school year 2020-21

Rigorous Exams at the end of Year 12

A Levels have been changing over the past few years, and now all A Level Grades are based on the exam taken at the end of Year 13 (along with coursework in some subjects). However exams at the end of Year 12 are very important for a number of reasons. They are a good indicator of how a student is performing with the increased challenge that A Levels represent, and are used for determining UCAS predicted grades. AS Level results often gave students a shock, and were the necessary reminder of just how hard you need to work to fulfil your potential at A Level. Therefore the Year 12 exams will be based on national A Level standards and we will report on those results in the summer. The grades which students achieve in those exams will be the basis for an important discussion between teachers, students and parents at that stage.

Three or four subjects in Year 12?

Whether students start with three or four A Levels will be considered on a case-by-case basis with each student. For a large number of students, starting on three subjects will be appropriate but for other students it may be sensible to start with 4 subjects, either with a view to dropping one when they are more certain which their three best subjects are, or, in a few cases, taking an AS Level in the subject at the end of Year 12.

Core Maths and the Extended Project Qualification ('EPQ') are optional extras. Please read the detail below. Core Maths is a relatively new course which helps students develop their Maths in Sixth Form without needing to take A Level Maths. It is the rough equivalent of half an A Level, and is taught over two years. (Further details are on page 30). The EPQ is also the equivalent of half an A Level, and allows you to devise your own topic and question to study and research by yourself. (Further details are on page 24).

You don't need to decide whether or not you want to do an EPQ until you start Year 12. We do ask you to indicate whether or not you want to do Core Maths before you apply.

If you are taking four subjects, you can also take the EPQ or Core Maths, but it would be unusual for you to do both.

Students who only take 3 subjects in Year 12, they should also be building their employability through taking one or more of the following options: (i) Core Maths and/or (ii) the EPQ and/or (iii) significant work experience or volunteering.

Resitting GCSE English or Maths

Students who, at the end of Year 11, do not achieve Level 5 or better in GCSE English and/or Maths are required by the government to resit those subjects during Year 12. We will discuss this with you on Results Day.

GCSE Entry Requirements

GCSEs are an important indicator of how students are likely to achieve at A Level. Entry requirements for study in the Sixth Form are set out below. However, where there are other personal circumstances to take into account, we will listen carefully to teachers' recommendations of the academic potential of the student to achieve at A Level.

Entry into Sixth Form is based on academic ability in the combination of A Levels or other courses students are wishing to study. Students will be expected to have an average of a Grade 4 across all their GCSEs. **(An example of how this is calculated is on page 42)**



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Maths and Science A Levels:

To take A Level Maths you will need Grade 7 at GCSE.

To take Further Maths A Level, you will need a Grade 8 at GCSE.

To take a Science subject at A Level you will need a Maths GCSE at Grade 6 or above, and also a Grade 6 in that Science subject at GCSE (or grade 6,6 in Trilogy Science).

English: To take A Level English Literature or English Language you will require Level 5 or better in English Literature or English Language GCSE (as appropriate).

New Courses

Engineering AQA Technical: This is an excellent opportunity to learn about and experience different aspects of engineering and the science behind it. The qualification is the equivalent in UCAS points to an A Level and will be well thought of by universities. It will suit students who might be interested in Engineering Degrees in the future (possibly when taken alongside Maths and/or Physics) or Product Design Degrees, and those interested in Higher Apprenticeships in engineering. Product Design and Engineering AQA Technical taken together will give students a broad perspective on the design and engineering process. If they later go on to a career in engineering, it will be helpful to have had a design perspective, and vice-versa.

Core Maths (see page 30) and Maths A Level: Core Maths is a new course which helps students develop their Maths in Sixth Form without needing to take A Level Maths. It has equivalent UCAS points to an AS Level. Core Maths has an entry requirement of Grade 5 at GCSE. Maths teachers may want to consider your actual exam score to check it is a good Grade 5, and discuss with you your suitability for the course having taught you at GCSE. A Level Maths has an entry requirement of Grade 7 at GCSE.

Would Core Maths or Maths A Level be best for me?

If you answer yes to any of the following statements, you probably will want to do Core Maths:

- I am doing a subject which now has a significant Maths content at A Level (like Psychology, Geography, Geology, Engineering, or another Science subject) and I would like to improve my Maths for it, but I don't want to do A Level Maths. (These subjects do not require you to study Core Maths, but it can be useful).
- I enjoy Maths and want to continue it in Sixth Form, but I don't feel Maths A Level would be right for me.
- I am interested in a career which might use Maths (like Finance or Accountancy) so I want to do some Maths which is good for real life, but I don't need Maths A Level, which is more theoretical.
- I enjoy Maths, and might be interested in Primary School teaching, and therefore want to improve my Maths, but don't feel I would want to do a full A Level in it.

If you answer yes to any of these questions, you probably want to do A Level Maths:

- I really enjoy Maths at GCSE and I want to continue to learn a more theoretical, conceptual Maths in a challenging A Level.
- I really enjoy Physics, and might want to do it at university
- I really enjoy Chemistry, Biology or Physics and might want to study that subject at university (which probably means you are likely to get an A Grade in GCSE science).
- I am considering the type of Engineering Degree at university which would require A Level Maths

Of course you might want to discuss these ideas further with us – feel free to come for a chat.



Sixth Form Prospectus for the school year 2020-21

Choosing the right courses

Subjects can be different at A Level, and by the end of Sixth Form some students wished they had thought a bit more carefully about taking a different subject at the start of A Level. Now is the time for that thinking.

Many students find that they can study the four subjects they want to. However because we need to offer subjects in blocks it might be that you get three out of your top choices plus one more. In that case it is sensible to have found out about as many subjects as possible to decide what your fourth subject will be. You should also think about the mix of assessment methods. Some subjects include coursework and the BTEC Business option and Engineering Tech Level with a greater emphasis on coursework and assignments suits some students very well.

The subjects available to start in 2019 are set out below. If the number of students wishing to study a particular subject is small, then either the subject might be run on a reduced timetable, or be withdrawn from the Sixth Form curriculum for the academic year

Thinking of University?

For some subjects your choices and combinations of subjects will be important - for example, medicine and related subjects, engineering, architecture and in some cases, law. For other subjects there might be 'clusters' of subjects which work well together. **Please have a look on the school website for more detailed advice - there is a section called 'Advice and Guidance for Year 11 students' in the Sixth Form section of the Highfields website.**

It might also be important if you are potentially thinking about Oxford or Cambridge. Speak with us if that is the case. The UCAS website can also help you.

However, in most cases the choices and combinations are not so critical - studying what you enjoy is the most important thing.

Taking 'hard' subjects

Every year we have a few cases where there are concerns that there are 'hard' and 'easy' subjects and that universities are unlikely to accept or favour some subjects. Please be careful with this view, and talk to us where this is your motivation. We find in most cases that (a) universities will not distinguish between subjects in this way, and ultimately are more keen to see three good grades (which is what their offer will be based on) and that (b) what is a big problem (and we see more often) is where a student takes what they perceive to be a 'hard' subject in order to look good but fails to get the grade needed for their university place.

Assessment and Recording

Whichever A Level course you follow, the work will be intensive and formal assessment of your progress will occur at regular intervals. Progress and attendance will be monitored regularly so that students can see a way forward to achieving their goals. We value discussions between teachers, students and parents/carers where there are problems with performance and attendance to help improve, since it is clearly not in your best interests to spend two years here without gaining further qualifications.

In Year 12, there is a Parents' Evening in November to discuss progress on the A Level courses with subject staff.

This is a good school. Ofsted, May 2017
A good school with an outstanding Sixth Form. Ofsted, October 2012





Life outside your studies

The Sixth Form Committee plans charity and social events for the Sixth Form; entertaining the school at Christmas, organising events for Children in Need and Comic Relief Day, and setting up Christmas Parties for the elderly in Matlock – which gives a really worthwhile beginning to the Festive Season. Sixth Form students also play a leading role in the School Parliament, taking up leadership responsibilities or cabinet positions with the chance to help younger students across the school change things for the better.

- Our community service programme provides a large range of different opportunities for Sixth Formers to feel that they are giving something back into school life and the wider community in Matlock.
- The Read On Write Away programme trains students to go into primary schools and help mentor younger children in their reading skills. This can have a really positive benefit for the child, as well as being a valuable one-on-one experience for students considering careers in the education, health or social fields.
- The same is true for the in-school Peer Mentoring programme where each year at least 70 students spend time each week helping pupils in Years 7 to 11 with academic work or giving them friendly advice on issues outside the classroom.
- Sixth Formers visit local care homes on a regular basis to bring music to the residents and a friendly face to chat with, and the Christmas Party with bingo, singing and food is a highlight in their calendar.
- The Sports Leaders Programme at Highfields is a significant commitment, but a rewarding experience for many sixth formers, who help to coach, encourage, supervise and support Primary School sport. They gain nationally recognised qualifications for doing so.
- Groups of students have also completed the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award, planning their own trips to the Lake District or further afield. It is one of the toughest but most memorable challenges, and often helps to develop students in ways which academic study cannot!

There are many more activities which students become involved in, some of which they set up and lead themselves, so you are always welcome to propose new initiatives.

Pastoral Support

Form groups are at the heart of the Sixth Form community. Established right from the start on Induction Day, they provide the social support of friends going through the enjoyment and pressures of A Level life, and the mentoring support from your form tutor, who will look at your studies with you on an individual basis and help to plan your next steps.

The Sixth Form Management Team are always available to listen to problems and offer guidance on issues of study, university or employment, and are on hand for any difficulties that students want help with. The door is always open to look at personal statements, applications for university and CVs for jobs.

During your time in Sixth Form certain things start becoming more important, like cars and money. So in addition to the Higher Education and career planning guidance, we have sessions on driving safety and key financial issues which will be important as soon as you leave school.



Sixth Form Prospectus for the school year 2020-21

Our A Level Subjects

The following subjects are offered in Sixth Form.

Some of the subjects on offer will require a certain number of students to opt for them in order to make the subject viable and, therefore, if the number of students wishing to study a particular subject is small, that subject may need to be withdrawn from the Sixth Form curriculum for the academic year.

Art & Design—Fine Art	Geography
Art & Design—Textiles	Geology
Art & Design—Photography	History
Biology	Technical Level Engineering
BTEC Business	Mathematics
Chemistry	Music
Computer Science	Music Technology
Design and Technology – Product Design	Philosophy
Drama and Theatre	Physics
English Language	Psychology
English Literature	Sociology
Film Studies	Spanish
French	BTEC Sport
Further Mathematics	

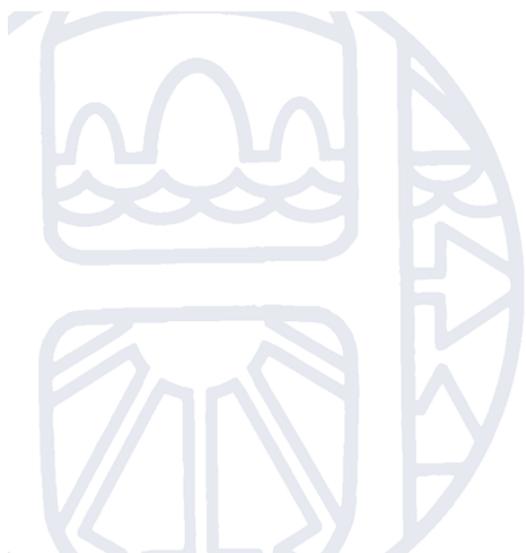
Subjects that can be taken alongside your A-Level choices

Core Maths	Sports Leaders Qualification
Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)	



Sixth Form Subjects

for the school year 2020-21



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Sixth Form Prospectus for the school year 2020-21

Art & Design - Fine Art

What is Art & Design?

Art and design—fine art introduces students to a wide range of different art medias, techniques and processes. The course emphasis is on learning by doing and allows learners to develop their creativity and independent thought.

Course content Year 1

Students will be introduced to a wide range of experiences, exploring 2 and 3-dimensional media process and techniques. Students will develop their portfolio through sustained practical investigations, informed by contextual studies.

Course content Year 2

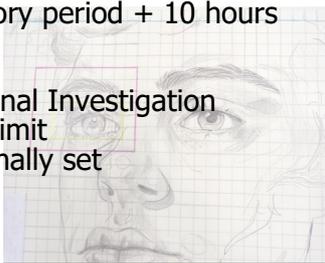
The course allows students to explore more personal themes and ideas. Students choose their own area of study, researching relevant artists, crafts people and designers and use this understanding to develop their own practical work. Practical exploration will be supported by written work that documents how students' ideas and understanding have developed.

Assessment criteria

Year 1: **Component 1:** Portfolio
Assessment: No time limit
Component 2: Externally set assignment
Assessment: Preparatory period + 10 hours supervised time

Year 2: **Component 1:** Personal Investigation
Assessment: No time limit
Component 2: Externally set assignment
Assessment:

Preparatory period + 15 hours supervised time



Are you interested in:

- Media and materials?
- Fine art and print making?
- 3-dimensional design?
- Illustration and design?
- Artists, galleries and museums?

Leading to a career in:

- Freelance design/ illustration
- Architecture
- Fashion design
- Photography
- Art therapy
- Art history
- Craft design

Exam Board: AQA

Course Code: 7202

Teaching staff:

Miss Fairbank
Mr Archer
Miss Hamrouge



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Art & Design - Textiles

Are you interested in:

- Textile media and materials?
- Fashion design?
- Fine art textiles?
- Mixed media?
- Contemporary textiles?

Leading to a career in:

- Costume design
- Interior design
- Fashion and business courses
- Fashion/textiles design
- Knitwear/footwear
- Retail management training
- Trainee buyer / merchandiser

Exam Board: AQA

Course Code: 7246

Teaching staff:

Ms Davies
Miss Hamrouge

What is Textiles?

The course focuses on creative skills, techniques and processes associated with fine art textiles. It offers opportunities for personal expression in a broad range of techniques in the following specialisms: surface pattern; drawing; decoration; print and dye methods; knit; weave; felt; embroidery and mixed media.

Course content Year 1

Students are introduced to a wide range of materials, techniques and processes in art and textiles. Students will develop their portfolio through sustained research and investigations in response to a chosen theme.

Course content Year 2

Students choose their own area of study to produce a personal investigation explaining relevant artists, designers and crafts people and developing their own practical work.

Practical investigations will be supported by a written assignment between 1000-3000 words.

Assessment criteria

Year 1: 60% coursework
40% externally set assignment (10 hour exam)

Year 2: 60% coursework
40% externally set assignment (15 hour exam)



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A good school with an outstanding Sixth Form. Ofsted, October 2012





Biology

Are you interested in:

- Living things and how they work?
- The way in which scientists work?
- The contribution of science to modern society?
- Understanding medical developments in the media?
- The impact humans have on the environment?

Leading to a career in:

- Medicine
- Dentistry
- Pharmacy
- Micro-biology
- Veterinary science
- Physiotherapy
- Genetics
- Bio-medical sciences
- Agricultural science
- Forensic science
- Midwifery
- Nursing
- Food science
- Environmental science
- Marine biology

Exam Board: AQA

Course Code: 7402

Teaching staff:

Mrs Stafford
Mr Fairhurst
Mrs Brailsford

What is Biology?

Biology is the study of living organisms, how they function and how they interact with each other.

Course content

This course has a great blend of topics. Some of which you will already be familiar with from GCSE such as the circulatory system and photosynthesis. Other topics are brand new, such as modern gene technologies including gene cloning, gene therapy and DNA fingerprinting.

If you like GCSE biology, you will *love* A-level because you can really get to grips with each topic and make your understanding more complete.

You will enjoy the balance between theory and practical lessons. The practical investigations will give you the chance to develop skills and consolidate your theoretical knowledge.

There are 12 required practicals, six in Year 12 and six in Year 13. These are opportunities to demonstrate your improving competencies in practical work, so that you can achieve a pass in the practical component by the end of Year 13.

Assessment criteria

Year 1: 2 x 1hr 30min written exam

Year 2: 3 x 2hr written exam
Assessment of practical skills will be by written exams only. 15% of the marks in the papers will relate to practical work.

"... I have found A level biology far more enjoyable than GCSE and not as impossible as I had imagined"

"... the field trip to Malham Tarn is one of the most fun things in the Sixth Form"





Sixth Form Prospectus for the school year 2020-21

BTEC Business National Extended Certificate

What is BTEC Business?

The BTEC Business National Extended Certificate has been developed in conjunction with various companies and institutes including John Lewis, Barclays, Npower, The Peter Jones Foundation and the Chartered Institute of Management. Universities, Professional Bodies and Employers have confirmed that the Diploma meets their entry requirements. This BTEC will be the equivalent of one A Level for UCAS entry. The course will include links with local businesses and the qualification gives the knowledge, understanding and skills that underpin the business sector.

Assessment criteria

One unit is assessed through exam, another through a controlled assignment set in school, and the others through coursework.

Course content

Exploring Business: This looks at how businesses are organised, how they communicate, the characteristics of the environment in which they operate, and how this shapes them and their activities? You will also look at the importance of innovation and enterprise to the success and survival of businesses. *(Coursework)*

Creating a Marketing Campaign: You will look at how a marketing campaign is developed, explore different stages of that process which a business goes through and develop your own campaign. *(Written supervised assessment with pre-release material)*

Personal and Business Finance: Personal finance looks at how managing your money can help prevent future financial difficulties. It is vital you understand the financial decisions you will need to take throughout your life and how risk can affect you and your choices. The business finance aspects of the unit introduce you to accounting terminology, the purpose and importance of business accounts and the different sources of finance available to businesses. *(Written examination)*

An optional unit to be taken from:

- Customer service
- English legal system
- Employment Law
- Potentially some extended work experience



Are you interested in:

- Knowing how to manage your own finances?
- A practical applied approach to learning?
- Setting up your own business?
- Understanding the inevitability of change?
- Finding out about what really happens in the workplace?
- Understanding how teams work together?
- Why businesses make the decisions they do?
- Investigating a range of business case studies?
- The reality behind *The Apprentice*?
- How the economy, politics, social trends and technology can impact on business?
- The considerations when setting up a new business?
- How businesses manage change?

Leading to a career in:

- Administration
- Accounting
- Management
- Sales
- Customer Service
- Human Resources
- Financial Services
- Marketing
- Operations

Exam Board: Edexcel

BTEC Business

Teaching staff:

Mr Lovatt
Mr Flett
Mrs Cruise

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Chemistry

Are you interested in:

- Practical Chemistry?
- Applications of Science?
- Problem solving?
- Scientific research?

Leading to a career in:

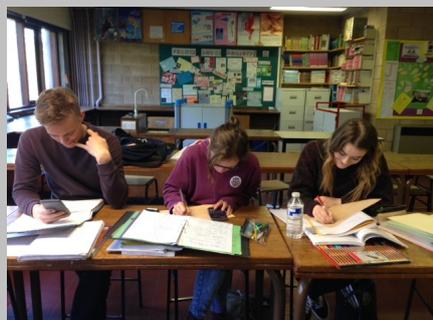
- Chemistry and chemical engineering
- Medicine and related fields
- Veterinary studies
- Biochemistry
- Pharmacy
- Physiotherapy

Exam Board: AQA

Course Code: 7405

Teaching staff:

Mrs Dowell
Mrs Harrison



What is Chemistry?

Studying the principles of physical, inorganic and organic Chemistry and exploring these through experimental work.

Course content Year 1

During Year 1 students will look at the relationship between atomic structure, chemical reactivity and patterns in the Periodic Table. This leads onto an introduction to organic chemistry, including alkanes as fuels and the environmental consequences of this use.

Course content Year 2

During Year 2 there is an opportunity for practical investigations to explore thermodynamics, transition metals, organic chemistry and their applications in industry and medicine.

Assessment criteria

100% examination

Year 1 has two module exams and Year 2 has three module exams with assessment of practical skills part of these written module exams.

A separate endorsement of practical skills consisting of six practicals in Year 1 and six in Year 2 will be taken alongside the A-Level which will be assessed by teachers.





Sixth Form Prospectus for the school year 2020-21

Computer Science

What is Computer Science?

The emphasis of this course is on abstract thinking, general problem-solving, algorithmic reasoning along with a strong emphasis on mathematical computation. The course develops students' computational thinking skills and problem solving ability. Students will also develop a range of skills including: high and low-level programming languages, network topologies, communication and Boolean algebra.

A range of different group and individual based teaching techniques are used to deliver the course theory. Students are expected to be able to work independently on the majority of the practical aspects of this course and be able to problem solve to find solutions for themselves.

Course content

Paper 1: Fundamentals of programming, data structures, algorithms and the theory of computation.

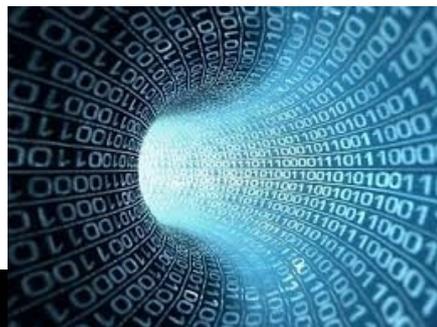
Paper 2: Fundamentals of data representation, computer systems, computer organisation & architecture. The consequences of uses of computing, big data and the fundamentals of communication and networking, databases and functional programming.

Assessment criteria

Paper 1: 2 hour 30 min on-screen exam (40% of A level)

Paper 2: 2 hour 30 min written exam (40% of A level)

Practical Problem Solutions: (20% of A-Level)

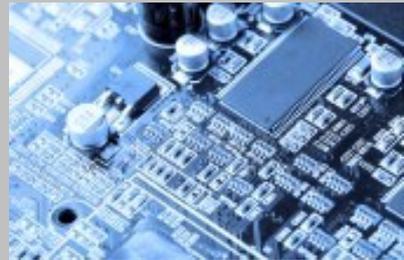


Are you interested in:

- Computer programming?
- How the Internet works?
- Solving problems?
- Whether or not a problem can be solved?

Leading to a career in:

- Science
- Engineering
- Software Development
- Network Management



Exam Board: AQA

Course Code: 7517

Teaching staff:

Mr Lovatt
Mrs Hadfield

Design & Technology - Product Design

Are you interested in:

- Commercial products?
- Designing and making?
- Solving problems?
- Marketing new products?
- CAD/CAM?
- Engineering?
- Environmental issues?

Leading to a career in:

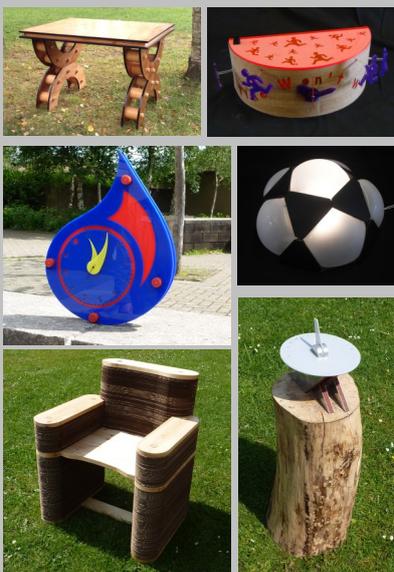
- Project Design
- Graphic Design
- Furniture Design
- Engineering
- Architecture
- Industrial Design
- Interior Design
- Other general design or engineering career paths

Exam Board: WJEC

Course Code: 2111 01

Teaching staff:

Ms Morris
Mr Richardson



What is Product Design?

Product Design is an exciting, innovative subject which allows students opportunities to experience the design and manufacture of innovative personalised projects. The course is designed to promote creativity through solving real life design problems involving research, designing, modelling and making.

Component 1: Design and Technology in the 21st Century

Written examination:

3 hours 50% of qualification

Learners take a single examination in one of the following endorsed area:

- **product design**

The examination includes a mix of short answer, structured and extended writing questions assessing learners' knowledge and understanding of:

- technical principles
- designing and making principles along with their ability to
- analyse and evaluate design decisions and wider issues in design and technology

Component 2: Design and make project

Non-exam assessment:

Approximately 80 hours 50% of qualification

- A sustained design and make project, based on a brief developed by the candidate, assessing the candidates' ability to:
- identify, investigate and outline design possibilities
- design and make prototypes
- analyse and evaluate design decisions and outcomes, including for prototypes made by themselves and others

"A creative and thought provoking subject with a professional base closely linked to current affairs"

"Both very creative and hands on"

Sixth Form D&T student quotes



Level 3 Foundation Technical Level in Engineering

What is Technical Level Engineering?

This qualification is designed for students who are interested in pursuing a career in the engineering sector and who are interested in engineering technology. The qualification could lead to further study in engineering, or an engineering-related apprenticeship or employment.

Course content

Students will complete four units:

- **Materials technology and science** - External examination
- **Mechanical systems** - Externally set and marked assignment
- **Engineering design** - Internally centre assessed
- **Production and manufacturing** - Internally centre assessed

Students will cover topics such as:

- the scientific principles used by engineers to identify the most suitable materials in a given engineering context
- mechanical engineering systems and components
- the process of engineering design
- the relevance and role that manufacturing processes and systems have in the production of multiple components.
- communication (oral and written)
- teamwork
- problem-solving.

This is an excellent opportunity to learn about and experience different aspects of engineering and the science behind it. Part of the course requires 'meaningful employer engagement', so students will be involved in several visits to local companies. The qualification is the equivalent in UCAS points to an A Level and will be well thought of by universities. It will suit students who might be interested in Engineering Degrees in the future (possibly when taken alongside Maths and/or Physics) or Product Design Degrees, and those interested in Higher Apprenticeships in engineering. Product Design and Engineering taken together will give students a broad perspective on the design and engineering process. If they later go on to a career in engineering, it will be helpful to have had a design perspective, and vice-versa. It is an Engineering Council approved qualification.

Assessment criteria

This qualification contains externally examined and internally assessed units. Internally assessed units are externally quality assured by AQA

The 4 units are graded Pass, Merit or Distinction each having a weighting of 25%.

Unit 1 and 2 will be completed and assessed during Y12.

The overall qualification is graded as P, M, D, D*

Are you interested in:

- Engineering

Leading to a career in:

- Mechanical Engineering
- Mechatronic Engineering
- Electronic Engineering

Exam Board: AQA

Teaching staff:

Mr Hill
Mr Richardson



Drama and Theatre

Are you interested in:

- Performance?
- Experiencing different live theatre performances?
- Working in groups in a creative context?
- Developing strong communication skills?
- Close textual analysis?
- Learning about the craft of the playwright and how plays are structured?

Leading to a career in:

- Performance
- Directing
- Theatre production / stage management
- Lighting designer / set designer
- Teaching
- Arts Administration
- Psychology
- Personnel work
- Management
- Other careers working with people

Exam Board: AQA

Course Code: 7262

Teaching staff:

Miss Bonsall
Miss Hendry
Mrs Rifkin

What is Drama and Theatre?

The A-Level course extends the GCSE skills of responding, developing and evaluating in ways that emphasise their interdependence. Students completing the course will have a thorough understanding of drama and theatre, highly toned analytical and creative skills and an ability to communicate effectively with others.

Course Content

Component 1 - Drama and Theatre (Written exam)

- Knowledge and understanding of Drama and Theatre.
- Study of two set plays.
- Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers.

3 hour written exam (open book)

Component 2 – Creating original drama (Practical)

- Process of creating devised drama. The piece must be influenced by the work and methodologies of one prescribed practitioner.
- Performance of devised drama.

Performance of devised drama plus working notebook

Component 3 – Making theatre (Practical)

- Practical exploration of 3 extract texts.
- Extract 3 is performed as a final assessed piece. The piece must have evidence of the methodology of a prescribed practitioner.

Performance of an extract plus reflective report





Sixth Form Prospectus for the school year 2020-21

English Language

What is English Language?

It's a systematic study of the use of English in everyday contexts. Therefore you will learn how to analyse a diverse range of texts including examples such as conversation between a hairdresser and their client, an advertisement for a nightclub or a washing label from a pair of jeans. You will also discover how sociological and psychological factors such as gender and power have an impact on the way language is produced. To do this you will need to learn lots of new technical terms, investigate your own and others' language use and understand established theories about language.

Course content

Unit 1 Exploring Language (40%)

- **Language under the microscope**

First part focuses on analysing lexical feature, second part on a grammatical feature of a short written text

- **Writing about a topical language issue**

Piece of original writing focusing on an issue or concept related to language in use where the purpose, audience and form will be given

- **Comparing and contrasting texts**

The focus of this section is on exploring linguistic connections and comparisons between different modes of texts, for example, in spoken and written texts or different forms of spoken English, which could include British regional dialects

Unit 2 Dimensions of linguistic variation (40%)

- **Child language acquisition**

The focus of this section is on children's acquisition of spoken language. The age range to be explored is 0-7 years old

- **Language in the media**

This section focuses on discourse in a multi-modal media text and requires you to apply language concepts and theories to your analysis of linguistic and graphological features. For example, you may consider relevant theories of language and power; language and gender or language and technology

- **Language change**

The focus of this section is on the analysis of historical varieties of English. The analysis will be based on drawing connections and comparisons between two texts from the 1600s to present day

NEA Independent language research (20%)

An independent investigation of language on an area of study which is of particular personal interest plus an academic poster where you present your research

Assessment criteria

Two exams worth 40% each and coursework worth 20%

Are you interested in:

- Analysing texts?
- Developing your own creative writing skills?
- Exploring the effective use of language?
- Learning about grammar and its usage?

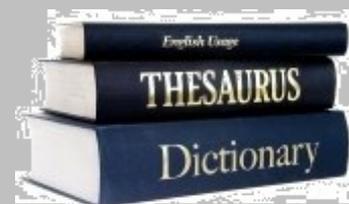
Leading to a career in:

- Journalism and the media
- Teaching
- Publishing
- Advertising
- Legal Profession
- Any job with an emphasis on communication

Exam Board: OCR
Course Code: H470

Teaching staff:

Mr Crawford
Mr Key
Mrs Key



English Literature

Are you interested in:

- Reading widely?
- Exploring and sharing ideas?
- Developing your analytical skills and essay writing?
- Discussing and debating literary texts?

Leading to a career in:

- Journalism
- Publishing
- Teaching
- Advertising
- Legal Professions
- Any job with an emphasis on ideas and writing

Exam Board: AQA

Course Code: 2746
Specification B

Teaching staff:

Mr Crawford
Mr Garth
Mrs Key

What is English Literature?

English Literature is the study of literature written in the English language. Literature is any written work that is deemed to have artistic or intellectual value, such as novels, poetry and plays. The writers do not necessarily have to be from England but can be from all over the world. English Literature deals with universal themes and values; it also teaches us about different time periods and faraway places.

Course content

Aspects of tragedy (40%)

We will look at one Shakespeare play, one modern play and one poetry text.

- Othello (Shakespeare)
- Death of a Salesman (Arthur Miller)
- 4 poems by Keats

Crime Writing(40%)

There will be one novel written after 2000 and two texts including poetry and one pre-1900 text

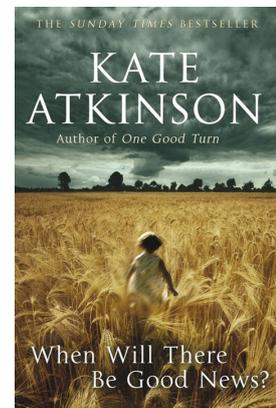
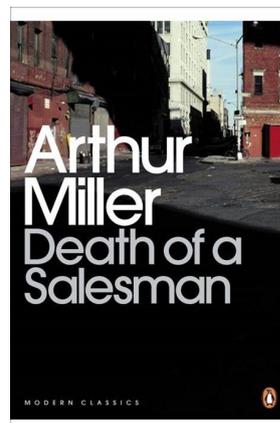
- Rime of the Ancient Mariner (Coleridge)
- When Will There be Good News (Atkinson)
- Brighton Rock (Greene)
- An unseen passage for the exam

Coursework (20%)

- Two texts for coursework (one poetry and one novel). Students will have the opportunity to choose their own texts here and will produce two essays of 1200 - 1500 words linking their texts to literary theories (feminism, Marxism, ecocriticism etc)

Assessment criteria

Two exams worth 40% each and coursework worth 20%





Sixth Form Prospectus for the school year 2020-21

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

What is EPQ?

The EPQ is a stand alone qualification taken in addition to your A Level studies. The EPQ should not be counted as one of your A-Level choices.

It is the equivalent of an AS level and carries the equivalent UCAS points. It is a piece of independent research based upon any particular area of interest, but should not already be part of your A Level study. Typically projects test a hypothesis and involve a wide range of resourced information, surveys, interviews and data collection.

Course content

The EPQ is a written academic style report, a record of the process, a presentation and review/reflection of your project. It is internally assessed, and all of these elements form part of the overall mark. You will be assigned a Supervisor who will advise and support you through the project.

The EPQ project can take many forms; either a min 5000 word academic style dissertation or a shorter academic report supported by an artefact which could be an artwork, a visual media such as a film or animation, a play or piece of music. The EPQ is supported by a timetabled taught element of one period a week learning study and research skills to support your project.

Assessment criteria

EPQ projects are marked internally by the EPQ Supervisors to four Assessment Objective (AO) criteria and are standardised by the Course Co-ordinator. Projects are externally moderated.

- A01 Manage (20%)
- A02 Use Resources (20%)
- A03 Develop and Realise (40%)
- A04 Review (20%)

Recent Project Titles:

- How far has the use of Friedrich Nietzsche's philosophy by far-right movements been justifiable?
- Since 2000, has the legislation and regulation around state surveillance developed in a manner which is fit for purpose?
- The potential development of CRISPR-Cas9 as a method for treating disease
- Is Music Preference Biologically Hardwired or a Cultural Creation?

University Recognition:

It is not necessary to study an EPQ to gain a place at University, however, the EPQ is recognised by universities as an invaluable tool to equip undergraduate students with independent study skills.

Many university interviews will refer to EPQ study and in some cases offers may be amended on the basis of a good grade in the EPQ.

Exam Board: AQA

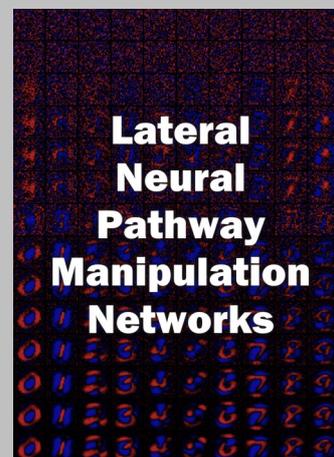
Course Code: 7993

Supervising staff:

Mr Flett
Mrs Bumby

Course Co-ordinator:

Mrs Bumby



Film Studies

Are you interested in:

- Film? (you have to be!)

Leading to a career in:

- Film/Online Video
- Radio
- Television
- Journalism
- Teaching
- Politics

Exam Board: EDUQAS

Course Code: 603/1147/2

Teaching staff:

Ms Grainger
Mr Warrington
Mr Garth



What is Film Studies?

Film Studies at Highfields is an exciting new subject which you may not have studied at GCSE. It is not necessary to have done GCSE Film Studies to do A-Level. You will never look at a film in the same way once you have begun this course!

The course is designed to deepen students' appreciation and understanding of film, a major art form of the 20th Century. Now film is over 100 years old and you will have the chance to delve into its history, studying influential movements and international film styles from the past and present. Recent new technologies have meant that film has become a method of self-expression that is accessible to a growing number of people—the youth of today are adults of the future and will need the ability to use this powerful tool for communication as well as to analyse and interpret its messages and values.

Not only will you benefit from learning an academic and theoretical approach to film but you get hands-on opportunities to experience the practical process of planning, shooting and editing your own short film. The department is fully equipped with HD and DV cameras and with the industry preferred editing software, Final Cut Pro.

Course content

Component 1:

- Varieties of Film and Filmmaking
- Hollywood 1930-1990
- American Film Since 2005
- British Film since 1995

Component 2:

- Global Filmmaking Perspectives
- Global Film
- Documentary Film
- Film Movements - Silent/Experimental Film

Component 3:

- Making a short film

Assessment criteria

Component 1: 35% 2.5 hr Exam
Component 2: 35% 2.5 hr Exam
Component 3: 30% Internal Assessment



Sixth Form Prospectus for the school year 2020-21

French

What is French?

A level French provides an engaging and exciting opportunity for you to build on your previous study of French. Through social, intellectual, historical, political and cultural themes you will be able to develop your linguistic knowledge and cultural understanding of the countries/communities where the language is spoken. Studying literature and film will allow you to undertake a deeper analysis of language structures and increase your cultural awareness. A strong focus is placed on building your confidence and fluency in spoken French using relevant and topical themes. The requirement to research an area of personal interest related to the country/communities where French is spoken will enhance your cultural appreciation and enable you to gain a greater awareness of intercultural differences.

Course content

Being a young person in French speaking society:

Family structures, traditional and modern values, friendships/relationships, citizenship.
Youth trends, issues and personal identity
Educational and employment opportunities.

Understanding the French-speaking world:

Regional culture and heritage in France and French-speaking countries and communities
France in a European context
Literature, art, film and music in the French-speaking world

Diversity and difference

Migration and integration; cultural identity and marginalisation; the positive aspects of a diverse society; discrimination and diversity

France 1940-1950: The Occupation and the post-war years

Life in occupied France, the resistance, the cultural dimension and reconstruction.

In Year 13 students will undertake independent research on a cultural topic of their choice

Assessment criteria

Component 1: Speaking - 30%
Component 2: Listening, reading and translation - 50%
Component 3: Written Paper - 20%

Are you interested in:

- Understanding how language works?
- Living or working abroad?
- Social and cultural issues?
- Communicating with others?
- Impressing employers?
- Increasing your salary potential?

Leading to a career in:

- Business with international links
- Employment which requires communication, research and analytical skills
- Marketing
- Teaching
- Interpreting & translating
- Law
- Management
- European related jobs
- Travel & tourism

Exam Board: WJEC/
Eduqas
Course Code:
603/0071/1

Teaching staff:

Mrs Bowen
Mrs Sayers
Mr Roberts



Geography

Are you interested in:

- The world around you?
- The challenges facing the environment?
- Understanding other cultures?
- The pressures and opportunities of world cities?
- Fieldwork and active research?
- A bridge between both arts and sciences?

Leading to a career in:

- Conservation
- Travel and tourism
- Local Government planning
- Resource management
- Meteorology and climatology, including climate change
- Law
- Financial Services
- Multi-National Organisations
- Retail
- Non-Government Organisations
- International Development

Exam Board: WJEC/
Eduqas

Course Code: A110QS

Teaching staff:

Mrs Barker
Mrs Bonner
Mrs Cruise
Mrs Millington

What is Geography?

Geography is the study of the world around us and man's impact on it. It considers the physical and human influences that shape and style our world including climate change, immigration, extreme climates, earthquakes, regeneration of cities and tourism.

Course content

- Year 1 content includes both physical (Tectonics) and human geography (Changing Places) plus geographical skills as well as an optional unit on Coasts.
- In Year 2, additional physical themes are Water/Carbon Cycles and Ecosystems while human themes are Global Governance and India

Fieldwork days - these will include work in Ringinglow and Sheffield for Human Geography, The Peak District and the Yorkshire coast for Physical Geography. Students will undertake an independent study.

Assessment criteria

80% examination: one fieldwork investigation worth 20% and three examinations on syllabus content.





Sixth Form Prospectus for the school year 2020-21

Geology

What is Geology?

Geology is the 'Earth Science'. Geology is an accessible and practical science that involves the study of the Earth: its structure; the processes that form rocks; the role of plate tectonics in creating earthquakes and volcanoes, how fossils show how life has evolved on Earth and how it shapes everyday life from toothpaste to tsunamis, from landfill to landslips. There is a requirement for field based learning and skill development.



Course content Year 1

Students learn about the Earth, its structures, evolution and dynamics. It develops four main concepts:

- **Elements, minerals and rocks:** How elements make up minerals which in turn make different types of rock.
- **Surface and internal processes of the rock cycle:** Weathering and erosion to deposition and diagenesis.
- **Time and change:** Including the study of fossils, including trilobites, ammonites and dinosaurs.
- **Earth structure and global tectonics:** Including the study of earthquakes and volcanoes.

Course content Year 2

In addition to increasing the depth of understanding from Year 1 topics including:

- **Natural Resources:** the formation, exploration and extraction of natural resources, such as metals and petroleum
- **Past life and Past Climates:** the evolution of life from the Pre Cambrian to the present and the study of climate change through time.
- **Rock Forming Processes:** from the formation of igneous rocks from magma to the structures formed during tectonic processes – folding and faulting.
- **Rock Deformation:** how structures including folding and faulting occurred and what they can tell us about the forces involved. Students also choose one of three special topics which include:
- **Geohazards** of earthquakes, volcanoes and landslips.
- **The geological evolution of Britain** - how our country was shaped by its geological setting in the past.



Are you interested in:

- Fossils, including dinosaurs?
- The evolution of life on Earth?
- The causes of mass extinctions?
- Minerals and rocks?
- Climate changes past and present?
- Plate tectonics
- Earthquakes & volcanoes?
- Fieldwork?
- Travel?

Leading to a diverse career in areas with a shortage of qualified people: (source: United Kingdom Visa Bureau)

- Field geologists.
- Geochemists
- Environmental scientists
- Engineering geologists
- Geophysicists
- Geo-environmental specialists
- Groundwater engineers
- Hydrogeologists
- Geotechnical engineers
- Petroleum or mining engineers
- ..and many more

Exam Board: WJEC

Course Code: 603/0859/X

Teaching staff:

Mr Fairhurst
Miss Hughes

Assessment Criteria

3 examinations with a large practical element, also testing the skills developed during fieldwork.

A practical endorsement will also be reported as a separate item at A level.

This is a good school. Ofsted, May 2017
A good school with an outstanding Sixth Form. Ofsted, October 2012



History

Are you interested in:

- Thinking?
- Analysing information?
- Discussion and debate?
- Research?
- Independent reading?
- Working in groups?
- Evaluating evidence?

Leading to a career in:

- Law
- Education
- Media
- Public Sector
- Business
- Journalism

Exam Board: OCR
Course Code: History
A H505

Teaching staff:

Mrs Clifford
Miss Morley
Mr Rodgers

What is History?

Students will need to become familiar with a large amount of background material, but will also need to be able to analyse this and produce from it reasoned arguments in response to specific questions. They will also need to be familiar with sources from the periods studied and be able to evaluate them.

Course content

Unit 1: Great Britain 1900-51

Students will learn about the key political events around this time period.

Unit 2: Russia 1645-1741

Students will learn about the reign of Peter the Great, as well as what came before and after him.

Unit 3: Civil Rights in the USA 1865-1992

This unit focuses on the struggle of citizens in the United States to gain equality before the law.

Unit 4: Coursework - Peter the Great

Students write an independently researched essay of 3000-4000 words based around Russia 1645-1741.

Assessment criteria

- Unit 1: Examination of 1 hour 30 minutes—25%
- Unit 2: Examination of 1 hour—15%
- Unit 3: Examination of 2 hours 30 minutes —40%
- Unit 4: Coursework—20%





Sixth Form Prospectus for the school year 2020-21

Core Maths

What is Core Maths?

Core Maths is the qualification for those who want to keep up their valuable maths skills but are not planning to take AS or A-level mathematics. At the end of the two-year course, students will come out with a level 3 qualification – with equivalent UCAS points to an AS level.

The new qualification is for students who have passed GCSE Mathematics at grade 5 or above. It builds upon and strengthens existing skills and focuses on using and applying mathematics to solve problems relevant to their everyday lives.

Core Maths builds on GCSE maths with a sharper focus on problem solving skills by considering and tackling mathematics in meaningful contexts. This includes financial applications of mathematics as well as further statistical ideas that can support work in other subjects they will be studying at A-level such as psychology, health sciences, geography, sociology and even history.

Course Content

The 2 year linear course consists of 2 exam papers at the end of Y13. Both papers have a maximum of 60 marks. There is no coursework. Frequent assessments will be done within school so that students are aware of their progression towards their target grade.

Paper 1 is a 1 hour 30 minutes written exam with the following compulsory content: Analysis of data, Maths for personal finance, Estimation

Paper 2 is a 1 hour 30 minutes written exam with the following compulsory/Optional content:

Compulsory: Critical analysis of given data and models

Optional:

- The normal distribution
- Probabilities and estimation
- Correlation and regression
- or
- Critical path and risk analysis
- Expectation
- Cost benefit analysis
- or
- Graphical methods
- Rates of change
- Exponential functions

Leading to a career in:

- Finance
- ICT
- web design
- Graphics
- Finance
- Fashion Design
- Logistics
- Advertising
- Psychology
- Interior Design

Exam Board: AQA

Course Code: 1350

Teaching staff:

Miss Wallhead

Fact Family Triangle Example

Directions: Fill in one of the bottom labels of the triangle, write the number from the first die. In the other bottom label, write the number from the second die. Add the two numbers from the dice and write the sum in the top label. Use all three numbers to write your fact family number sentences (addition and subtraction).

Example:

©www.thereadingmama.com

Find the sum. Use front-end estimation to check that each answer is reasonable.

Example

Find $354 + 291$.

$$354 + 291 = \underline{645}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 354 \\ + 291 \\ \hline 300 + 200 = 500 \end{array}$$

The estimated sum is $\underline{500}$.

The answer $\underline{645}$ is reasonable.





Mathematics

Are you interested in:

- The language of the universe?
- How real life situations are modelled with Mathematics?
- How important decisions are made based on statistics?
- How Mathematics is the starting point for computer programming?
- Mathematics for its own sake?

Leading to a career in:

- Finance
- Computing
- Medicine
- Architecture
- Statistical Research
- Engineering

Exam Board: OCR

Course Code: H240

Teaching staff:

Mr Brooks
 Mrs Brown
 Miss Wallhead
 Mr Moss

What is Mathematics?

Mathematics has developed over time as a means of solving problems and also for its own sake. Mathematics can stimulate moments of pleasure and wonder when you solve a problem for the first time, discover a more elegant solution, or notice hidden connections.

Course Content Year 1

Pure Mathematics: Proof, Algebra and functions, Coordinate geometry, Sequences and series, Trigonometry, Exponentials and logarithms, Differentiation, Integration

Mechanics: Vectors, Quantities and units in mechanics, Kinematics, Forces and Newton's laws

Statistics: Statistical sampling, Data presentation and interpretation, Probability, Statistical distributions and statistical hypothesis testing

Course Content Year 2

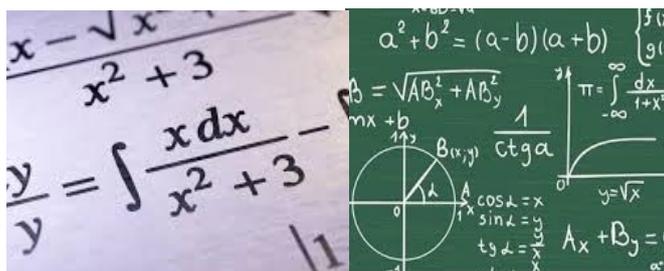
Pure Mathematics: Proof, Algebra and functions, Coordinate geometry, Sequences and series, Trigonometry, Exponentials and logarithms, Differentiation, Integration, Numerical methods

Mechanics: Vectors, Quantities and units in mechanics, Kinematics, Forces and Newtons laws, Moments

Statistics: Statistical sampling, Data presentation and Interpretation Probability, Statistical distributions, Statistical hypothesis testing

Assessment Criteria

There are 3 exam papers which are 2 hours long and have a maximum of 100 marks. There is no coursework. Frequent assessments will be done within school so that students are aware of their progression towards their target grade.





Sixth Form Prospectus for the school year 2020-21

Further Mathematics

What is Further Mathematics?

Further Mathematics extends the understanding gained in A level Mathematics to higher levels, as well as exploring topics afresh. It is advantageous to students who are considering studying Mathematics at university. Also, students who study Physics and Engineering will benefit from studying mathematics at this level.

Course content

Paper 1 and **Paper 2** both consist of a mix of question styles, from short, single-mark questions to multi-step problems taken from the following Pure Mathematics topics:

Proof, Complex numbers, Matrices, Further Algebra and Functions, Further Calculus, Further Vectors, Polar coordinates, Hyperbolic functions, Differential equations, Trigonometry, Coordinate geometry

Paper 3 consists of a mix of question styles, from short, single-mark questions to multi-step problems and students can choose 2 of the following 3 sections – Statistics, Mechanics and Discrete maths.

Statistics: Discrete Random variables and expectation, Poisson Distribution, Type 1 and type 2 errors, Continuous random variables, Chi Tests for association, Exponential Distribution, Inference – one sample t-distribution

Mechanics: Dimensional analysis, Momentum and collisions, Work, energy and power, Circular Motion, Centres of Mass and Moments

∃ r such that

$$p \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} + q \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \\ -3 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix} + r \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -4 \\ -2 \\ -6 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 7 \\ 8 \\ 15 \end{pmatrix}$$

of the equation $\mathbf{Ax} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 7 \\ 8 \\ 15 \end{pmatrix}$ for which $\alpha^2 + \beta^2$

Are you interested in:

- The possibility of learning about areas of mathematics that you never knew existed?
- Being challenged to the limit of your understanding?
- Developing your sense of fun and achievement at solving problems of great depth?
- Do you love maths?

Leading to a career in:

- Finance
- Computing
- Medicine
- Architecture
- Statistical Research
- Engineering

Exam Board: OCR

Course Code: H245

Teaching staff:

Mr Brooks
Mrs Brown
Mr Moss



Music

Are you interested in:

- Performance?
- Composition?
- Analysis?
- Listening?
- Understanding music?

Leading to a career in:

- Performance
- Teaching
- Music production / management
- Music therapy
- Music retail
- Publishing
- Arts administration

Exam Board: Eduqas

Course Code
B660QS
A660PA/B

Teaching staff:

Mr Rowley
Mr O'Reilly



What is Music?

The Music course extends the GCSE skills of performing, composing and appraising in ways that emphasise their interdependence. Engagement with the widest possible range of music is encouraged and there are increased opportunities for the development of skills and understanding.

Course content Year 1

In Year 1 you will analyse music from the classical pop, jazz and film traditions with the aim of broadening your understanding of how music works. You will follow a course of formal harmony alongside more free composition projects and are expected to engage fully with the extensive performance opportunities in the department.

Course content Year 2

In Year 2 you will continue to perform regularly and additional set works will provide material for analysis. You will further develop skills in the techniques of composition and submit a portfolio of works along with a technical study focusing on harmony. You will perform an extended solo recital.

Assessment criteria

Your grade is based on individual or ensemble performance, composition, and developing and demonstrating your musical understanding through close analysis of set works.





Sixth Form Prospectus for the school year 2020-21

Music Technology

What is Music Technology?

The concept of this course is to allow students to study music through technology. It recognises technology in music as a way of music making in its own right that requires a high level of skills acquisition and application, knowledge and understanding.

The course encourages students to extend the knowledge, skills and understanding needed to communicate through music and take part in music making; to interpret musical ideas through the application of technology (e.g. sequencing, recording music, performing with others, realising own compositions); to create and develop musical ideas using music technology (e.g. improvising, arranging, composing and sequencing).

This is a course that will inspire and enthuse a wide variety of musicians and will develop a set of skills different to the more conventional Music course. The skills you will develop during this course have the potential to help you achieve a career in the recording industry. Here at Highfields, you have the opportunity to work in a 'state of the art' purpose built facility using industry standard recording equipment and software with highly skilled specialist Music Technology teachers.

The course is divided into 4 components:

- Component 1: NEA – Recording – 20%**
- Component 2: NEA - Technology-based composition -20%**
- Component 3: Written Examination - Listening and analysing – 25%**
- Component 4: Written and practical Examination - Producing and analysing – 35%**

In component 1, the focus of this Area of Study will be on the use of recording and mixing techniques to capture, edit and produce a recording. In component 2, the focus will be on the use of sound creation and manipulation techniques to create, edit and structure a technology-based composition. In component 3, the focus will be on the capture, arrangement of sounds and mixing and mastering techniques that have been used on a series of unfamiliar commercially available recordings and in component 4, the focus will be on use of sound creation and processing techniques to correct and mix a recording.

Are you interested in:

- Recording?
- Production?
- Sequencing?
- Arranging?
- Composing?
- Listening?

Leading to a career in:

- Music / recording industry
- Teaching
- Performing Arts
- DJ

Exam Board: Edexcel

Course Code:
9MT01/02/03/04

Teaching staff:

Mr O'Reilly
Mr Rowley
Mr Bradder



Philosophy

Are you interested in:

- What things we can know?
- Whether the existence of God can ever be proved?
- How we make moral decisions?
- Whether mind and body are separate?

Leading to a career in:

- Education
- Journalism
- Law
- Politics and Government
- Developmental work
- Charity and non-profit work
- Health Care

Exam Board: AQA

Course Code: 7172

Teaching staff:

Mrs Blakesley

What is Philosophy?

The study of philosophical ideas about knowledge, concepts of God, ethics and understanding the mind.

Course content

Epistemology - Explores our immediate objects of perception, what knowledge is, where knowledge comes from and the limits of knowledge.

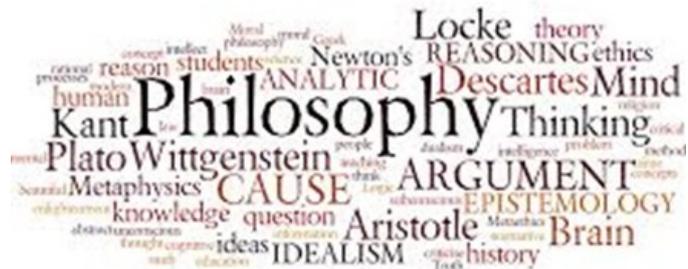
Moral Philosophy - The exploration of ethical theories and how we decide what is morally right, with application of different ethical theories to issues such as stealing and telling lies.

Metaphysics of God - Examines different arguments for the existence of God and how these are expressed through language.

Metaphysics of Mind - Study of the mind and body and the connection between the two and their purpose.

Assessment criteria

100% Examination
2 x 3hr Exams





Sixth Form Prospectus for the school year 2020-21

Physics

What is Physics?

Physics explains the world around us, from galaxies to sub-atomic particles. Physics also enables us to change the world through the work of engineers, designers and technologists. From your GCSE studies you will realise whether you have the curiosity, interest and ability to pursue this subject further. To study Physics you must first come with an enquiring mind. We aim to develop your qualities of self-motivation, determination and appetite for challenge.

Course content Year 1

Unit 1: Measurements and their errors
 Unit 2: Particles and radiation
 Unit 3: Waves
 Unit 4: Mechanics and materials
 Unit 5: Electricity

Course content Year 2

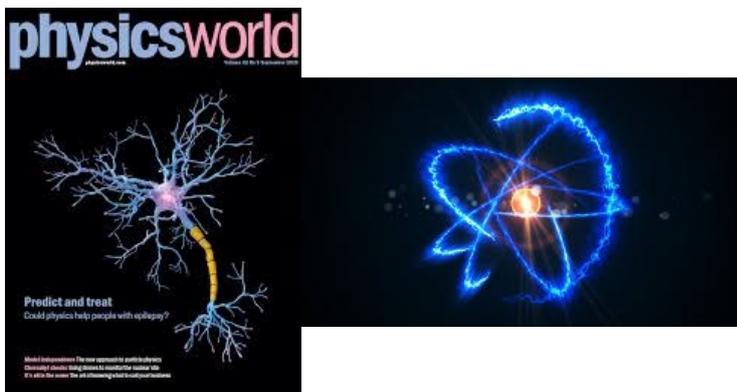
Unit 6: Further mechanics and thermal physics
 Unit 7: Fields and their consequences
 Unit 8: Nuclear physics
 Unit 9: Option Topic

Assessment criteria

Paper 1: Short, long and multiple choice questions Units 1-5

Paper 2: Short, long and multiple choice Units 6-9

Paper 3: Short, long questions. Data analysis and Option Topic



Are you interested in:

- Asking the fundamental questions?
- Intellectual challenge?
- Experimental work?
- Problem solving?

Leading to a career in:

- Physics
- Medicine
- Biochemistry
- Engineering
- Architecture
- Research & development

Exam Board: AQA

AS 7407
 A2 7408

Teaching staff:

Mrs Morgan
 Mr Ruston
 Mr Nightingale-Smith



This is a good school. Ofsted, May 2017
A good school with an outstanding Sixth Form. Ofsted, October 2012





Psychology

Are you interested in:

- Consciousness, thought processes and how the mind works?
- The relationship between mind and body, e.g. stress?
- Individual differences and mental disorders?
- The extent to which study of the human being can be scientific?
- The effects of nature (genetics and evolution)?
- The effects of nurture (the environment, learning and the media)?

Leading to a career in:

- Personnel
- Social work
- Teaching or childcare
- Counselling
- Medicine
- Police
- Sport psychology
- Media

Exam Board: AQA

Course Code: 2181

Teaching staff:

Mr Flett
Miss Ould
Mr Cole



What is Psychology?

Psychology is the scientific study of behaviour and experience. The course focuses on the influence of both biological and psychological factors on individuals. The different theoretical and methodological approaches of behaviourists, psychodynamic, cognitive and social psychologists, as well as those who favour the biological approach are recurring themes throughout the course. An evaluation of the research methods and analytical techniques used within the discipline are an integral part of all of the Year 12 and Year 13 units.

Course content Year 1

We look at a range of topics including:

- **Memory:** Looking at how we remember/forget information.
- **Attachment:** This is about the relationships which babies and young children form with adults.
- **Social Influence:** We look at questions like - 'why do most people follow the crowd?' (this is called conformity).
- **Psychopathology:** We consider different explanations and different treatments for mental health problems.
- **Research Methods:** Evaluating different methods of investigation, as well as data handling and analysis.

Course content Year 2

We will recap the topics from Year 1 and introduce new ones such as:

- **Biopsychology:** Looking at the structure of the brain and biological rhythms.
- **Issues and debates:** Discussing the relative contribution of nature and nurture.
- **Aggression:** We consider why people act more aggressively in group situations.
- **Schizophrenia:** Looking at the causes and treatments of this disorder.
- **Relationships:** We consider why we find certain people attractive and why we are so concerned with celebrities.

Assessment criteria

All the course is assessed by exams. Three exams - all 2 hours long.

You are tested on your knowledge of Psychology, your ability to evaluate it, apply it and discuss the Research Methods used in it. There will be a mixture of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions.





Sixth Form Prospectus for the school year 2020-21

Sociology

What is Sociology?

Sociology is the study of people in Society. It looks at the behaviour of groups and the interaction between individuals. It examines different Sociological Theory and evidence around Social Order and Conflict in Society and evaluates Sociological Research Methods. It builds analytical, critical and transferable intellectual skills.

Course Content

Paper 1 2 hour exam

Education: The role and functions of the education system. Why do we have differential educational achievement of social groups by social class, gender and ethnicity in society. Identities and subcultures, the hidden curriculum and Government Policy on education.

Theory and Methods: Research design and sources of data for Sociologists. The theoretical, practical and ethical considerations influencing choice of topic, choice of method and the conduct of research.

Paper 2 Topics in Sociology 2hr Exam

Families and Households: The relationship of the family to social change and changing patterns of marriage, cohabitation and divorce. Family diversity and gender roles, domestic labour and power relationships within the family. The nature of childhood, and changes in the status of children in the family and society.

Beliefs in Society: The conflict between Ideology, Science and Religion. Social change and religious beliefs. New Religious movements such as, Cults, Sects and New Age movements. The Global significance of religion and Fundamentalism.

Paper 3 2 hr Exam

Crime and Deviance: Crime, deviance and Social control, Who commits Crime? New types of Crime such as Cyber and Environmental crime. How do the media exaggerate Crime? The State and Surveillance in the 21st Century. Prison and punishment and how effective it is in preventing Crime.

Are you interested in:

- People?
- Social issues?
- Current affairs?
- Diversity and difference?
- Understanding society?
- Social change?

Leading to a career in:

- Law
- Police
- Criminology
- Human Resources
- Journalism
- Teaching

Exam Board: AQA
Course Code: 7192

Teaching staff:

Mrs Serjeant
Mr Cole





Spanish

Are you interested in:

- Understanding how language works?
- Living or working abroad?
- Social and cultural issues?
- Communicating with others?
- Impressing employers?
- Increasing your salary potential?
- Accessing a much wider range of jobs?

Leading to a career in:

- Business with international links
- Employment which requires communication, research and analytical skills
- Marketing
- Teaching
- Interpreting & translating
- Law
- Management
- European related jobs
- Travel & tourism
- Journalism
- Government work

Exam Board: WJEC/
Eduqas
Course Code:
603/0069/3

Teaching staff:

Mrs Bell
Mr Roberts

What is Spanish?

The course develops your listening, speaking, reading writing and translation skills as well as your general knowledge of the country. You will develop these skills through researching and discussing topics in written and spoken language. You will study texts and films and put them in to their cultural and historical context. There will be an opportunity to have oral classes with a native speaker during the year.

Course content

Social Issues and Trends
Travel, diversity and local festivals
Youth culture and the making of modern society
Political, intellectual and artistic culture – including entertainment, the arts and new media

In Year 13 students will undertake independent research on a cultural topic of their choice

Assessment criteria

Component 1: Speaking - 30%
Component 2: Listening, reading and translation -50%
Component 3: Written Paper - 20%





BTEC National Sport Level 3 Extended Certificate

What is Sport Level 3 Extended Certificate?

This course is designed to aid preparation for future work within the sports industry. The course is built up of units to which you will have to meet certain criteria to achieve certain levels.

There are 3 mandatory units and 1 further unit that you will study.

Two of the units will be assessed via coursework/portfolio/evidence from your teachers and there will be one unit assessed externally as a written examination, and one unit that you will complete as a pre-release scenario task, which you will be able to take notes into the room to complete the assignment.

Course Content

Unit 1: Anatomy and Physiology.

Unit 2: Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being.

Unit 3: Professional Development in the Sports Industry.

Unit 7: Practical Sport Performance.

Assignment briefs and external assessment

Unit 1: The Anatomy and Physiology unit will be assessed as a written exam 1.5 hours. • 90 marks

Unit 2: The Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being unit will be assessed via a set task.

Set tasks – learners demonstrate understanding through completion of a vocational task.

- In Part A, learners will be given a case study two weeks before a supervised assessment period in order to carry out research.
- In Part B, the supervised assessment period is two hours over a period of two days. Written submission 60 marks.

The other units are assessed by your PE teachers within your BTEC lessons, a sample will then be checked by external standards verifiers to make sure your work is the grade your teacher says it is and check your progress at certain times of the year.

Are you interested in:

- Sport in all its forms?
- Analysing and improving performance?
- Performing practically?

Leading to a career in:

- Teaching
- Sports development
- Physiotherapy
- Sports journalism
- Personal trainer

Exam Board: Edexcel

Teaching staff:

Mr Shirtcliffe
Mr Redhead
Mrs Wildgoose



Sports Leaders Qualification

The Sports Leaders Qualification is offered in addition to your A-Level choices

Governing Body

Sportsleaders UK

Teaching staff:

Mrs Allen



What is the Sports Leaders Qualification

The Level 3 Higher Sports Leaders Award is a nationally recognised qualification that enables successful students to lead un-supervised groups of people in sport and recreational activities. This builds upon the skills and experience gained through the Level 2 Community Sports Leadership and Level 2 Sport Leadership.

The qualification teaches generic leadership skills such as organisation, planning, communication and teamwork through the medium of sport. It is a fun, practical qualification with the only requirement that the learner has successfully completed the Level 2 Award in Year 11 or 12. There is no final written exam only a practical moderation of the student leading a group of young people.

There are 107 guided learning hours which includes 30 hours demonstrating leadership. The course at Level 3 carries 16 UCAS tariff points.

Students are required to attend sessions consistently and bring practical wear for all lessons. Students lead sessions with local primary school pupils and our own Highfields students.

Sports Leaders UK is a national organisation and at Highfields we have followed these courses for over 10 years and the Sports Leadership Academy is a Queens Award Winning Academy and the centre has international status for the delivery of these awards.

Students also have the opportunity to take a one day Sportsleaders UK Course called Go Lead which is a nationally recognised and accredited Leadership Award.





Sixth Form Prospectus for the school year 2020-21

Destinations after Sixth Form

Results Days have been happy events too. Typically between 75% to 85% of students go to university, with other students choosing higher and degree apprenticeships, local education courses and employment. Of those going to university, between 80 and 85% will make their first choice, with practically everyone getting into their second choice.

There have been great stories across the board, several students leaving for sought after Degree and Higher Apprenticeships with Balfour Beatty, National Grid and Jaguar Land Rover. In recent years a good number of students have gone on to study Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science. Oxbridge students have gone to study Maths, English, Natural Sciences, Politics, Philosophy, History, German and Computer Science. Others have gone on to Architecture, Law, Languages, English and History at highly competitive universities including UCL, Warwick, Durham and Imperial College. All the subjects taught at Highfields have been represented in degree course choices.

Average GCSE point score calculation

This is the mean average. This is calculated by adding up all the point scores from each of your subjects and dividing by the number of subjects you are taking as shown in the tables below.

GCSE Grade	Point Score
A*	8.5
A	7
B	5.5
C	4
D	3
E	2
F	1
U	0

Example:

A student achieves the following grades:

GCSE Grade	Point Score
7	7
7	7
5.5	5.5
5.5	5.5
4	4
4	4
3	3
2	2
Total:	38

$$\text{Total} \div \text{number of subjects} = \text{Mean Average}$$

$$38 \div 8 = 4.5$$



Sixth Form Application Process for September 2020 Entry - Key Dates

November 2019

Publication of Sixth Form Prospectus and Sixth Form Open Evening Thursday 7 November (6.00-8.30pm in the Wheeldon Hall, Lumsdale site).

Students will be asked to indicate their preference choices of A-Level subjects after the Open Evening.

December 2019

Option Blocks created in response to demand.

Year 11 Mock Examinations w/c 25 November and w/c 2 December

January - March 2020

Students choose from option blocks and are interviewed to help understand and guide their choices.

June 2020

Sixth Form Induction Days (Monday 29 and Tuesday 30 June)

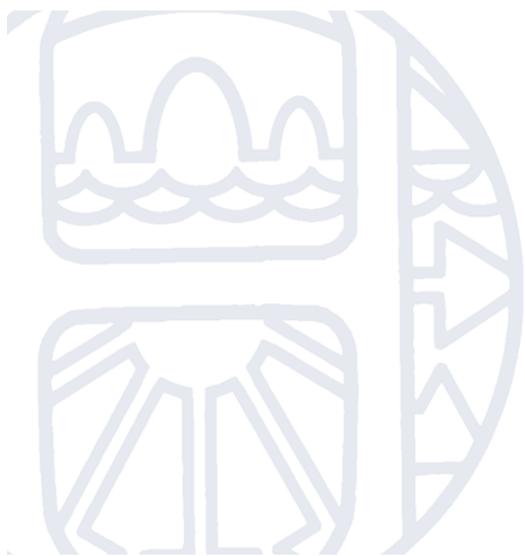
August 2020

On GCSE Results day, Thursday 20 August, every student will have their choices confirmed or, in the case of lower than expected results, we will check the choices made are the most Appropriate.

2020-21 Provisional Holidays

Term Dates:

2 September 2020 – 23 October 2020
2 November 2020 – 18 December 2020
4 January 2021 – 12 February 2021
22 February 2021 – 1 April 2021
19 April 2021 – 28 May 2021
7 June 2021 – 22 July 2021
CPD days to be confirmed.



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